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Abstract of the Disclosure:

In a network management system, a data portion of
an SNMP packet transmitted/received between an SNMP
manager 10 (network management device) and an SNMP
agent 20 (management object device) is compressed by a
5   predetermined   compression   algorithm   in   a
compression/decompression processing section 13, 22,
when the SNMP packet is transmitted.   The compressed
SNMP packet is decompressed to be reproduced as the
SNMP   packet   by   the   predetermined   compression
10 algorithm in the compression/decompression processing
section 13, 22, when the compressed SNMP packet is
received.   Further, a compression indicating bit [1] is
set on a predetermined bit position in the compressed
SNMP packet in order to distinguish the SNMP packet
15 from another SNMP packet transmitted/received between
the SNMP   manager 10   and   an   SNMP   agent   120
(conventional management object device).